

Chinese New Year

Chinese New Year starts with the New Moon on the first day of the new year and ends on the full moon 15 days later. The 15th day of the new year is called the Lantern Festival, which is celebrated at night with lantern displays and children carrying lanterns in a parade.

The Chinese calendar is based on a combination of lunar and solar movements. The lunar cycle is about 29.5 days. In order to "catch up" with the solar calendar the Chinese insert an extra month once every few years (seven years out of a 19-yearcycle). This is the same as adding an extra day on leap year. This is why, according to the solar calendar, the Chinese New Year falls on a different date each year.

New Year's Eve and New Year's Day are celebrated as a family affair, a time of reunion and thanksgiving. The celebration was traditionally highlighted with a religious ceremony given in honor of Heaven and Earth, the gods of the household and the family ancestors.

The sacrifice to the ancestors, the most vital of all the rituals, united the living members with those who had passed away. Departed relatives are remembered with great respect because they were responsible for laying the foundations for the fortune and glory of the family.

The presence of the ancestors is acknowledged on New Year's Eve with a dinner arranged for them at the family banquet table. The spirits of the ancestors, together with the living, celebrate the onset of the New Year as one great community. The communal feast called "surrounding the stove" or weilu. It symbolizes family unity and honors the past and present generations.

From the University of Victoria

http://www.educ.uvic.ca/faculty/mroth/438/CHINA/chinese_new_year.html

Websites You May Want to Visit

China the Beautiful

<http://www.chinapage.com/newyear.html>

Wikipedia

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chinese_New_Year

The World Factbook

<http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/ch.html>

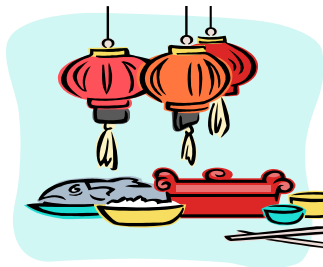
Books You May Want to Read (Hint: check out the library shelves at 394.261.)

Celebrating Chinese New Year by Diane Hoyt-Goldsmith

Go along with Ryan as he and his family prepare to celebrate Chinese New Year in their home and community.

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The Chinese New Year Mystery (Nancy Drew Notebooks, No 39) by Carolyn Keene

The third-grade classes at Nancy's school are learning about Chinese culture, and they'll celebrate the Chinese New Year with a special parade. The highlight of the parade will be a dragon costume that Nancy's class is making out of feathers, sequins, gold tassels, and red silk. But right before the big day, the dragon disappears!

The Dancing Dragon by Marcia K. Vaughan

The Chinese New Year is about to begin. There's lots to do--tie strings of firecrackers outside, hang up red scrolls, bake special cakes, and sing New Year's songs. And when family and friends are gathered together, it's time for the parade to begin.

Happy New Year! Kung-Hsi Fa-Ts'AI : Kung-Hsi Fa-Ts'AI by Demi (Illustrator)

Children examine the flurry of activity associated with the Chinese New Year. Includes descriptions of everything from heavenly beings to candied coconut. Children will also find their own animal sign of the Chinese New Year based on the year of their birth.

Lion Dancer : Ernie Wan's Chinese New Year by Kate Waters

On the Chinese New Year, six-year-old Ernie will perform his first Lion Dance. An intimate look at a Chinese household as the family shares a proud moment with Ernie.

Sam and the Lucky Money by Karen Chinn

A tale of a young boy eager to spend his lucky money on Chinese New Year day. As Sam searches the streets of Chinatown for ways to spend his four dollars, he stumbles upon a stranger in need. After he decides to give, rather than spend, his money, Sam realizes that he's the lucky one.

To Find More

In TEL, go to **Kids InfoBits** or **Junior Edition - K12** and use the following search strategies:

Lunar New Year	Spring Festival
Lantern Festival	Zodiac
Geology	Lunisolar calendar

Make a Chinese New Year Craft

Kids Domain

http://www.kidsdomain.com/craft/_chin-ny2.html

Make your Own Lucky Money Envelope

Scholastic

http://teacher.scholastic.com/lessonplans/pdf/dec05_unit/money.pdf

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www.tennessee.gov/tsla/tel